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## Lady Celts top McKay, West Salem

By **DEREK WILEY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

McNary's girls tennis team improved to 3-0 overall and 2-0 in league play on Monday, April 9.

Sweeping all four singles matches, the Lady Celts defeated West Salem 5-3.

At No. 1 singles, Hannah Childress barely broke a sweat and didn't lose a game, defeating Miranda Brewen 6-0, 6-0.

Katherine Perez only dropped one game, topping Katie Harrington 6-1, 6-0 at 2 singles.

Helena Gools, a foreign exchange student from Belgium, won 6-4, 7-6 at 3 singles.

After not winning a match last season, sophomore Avery Haymowicz won 6-0, 7-5 at 4 singles to remain undefeated.

"My serves have improved over the summer quite a bit," Haymowicz said. "Last year I would lose game after game because I just couldn't serve. This season has been a big improvement and I'm really happy with the way the whole team has been."

Haymowicz has also

worked at being more consistent this season.

"I've got to be the wall that keeps hitting it back," she said.

McNary's fifth point came at No. 1 doubles. After losing the first set 2-6, Natalia Gonzalez and Sofia Zielinski stormed back to win the second set 7-5 and the third 6-1.

"Last year we didn't win many matches, except for like two, and West is a pretty good school, so it was nice winning," Gonzalez said. "I think we just had the momentum going with us, as soon as we won a set. They kept hitting it to us at the net and I think both of us play really well at the net so it was easy shots."

West Salem won at 2, 3 and 4 doubles.

The Lady Celts defeated McKay 7-1 on Wednesday, April 4 in its first league match.

Childress again won 6-0, 6-0. Perez captured a 6-3, 6-3 victory and Tanveer Sandhu came from behind to win 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 at 3 singles.

McNary then swept doubles action with Gonzalez and Zielinski winning 6-4,



McNary senior Helena Gools, left, and sophomore Avery Haymowicz both won their matches at No. 3 and 4 singles on Monday, April 9 against West Salem.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

6-1 at 1 doubles and McKenna Sieg and Taylor Walker winning 6-4, 6-1 at 3 dou-

bles.

The other two doubles matches both went three sets

with Ainoha Zorzo and Gina Munguia coming back to win 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 at 2 doubles

and Haymowicz and Joyce Yu holding on for a 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 victory at 4 doubles.

# Reaching new heights

## McNary sets PRs at Titan Track Classic

By **DEREK WILEY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

SALEM—McNary senior Paige Downer took last track season off to play AAU basketball.

She's returned looking like she never left.

After setting a 1-foot personal record of 10 feet in the pole vault at Forest Grove to open the season, Downer cleared 9-08 on Friday, April 6 to place fourth at the Titan Track Classic at West Salem.

The 10-foot jump is the best in the Greater Valley Conference this season and would have been good enough for second at last year's district meet.

"I knew I was going to come back and vault but I didn't know it would be like this so far. It's exciting," Downer said. "I have hope for myself and I think that if I can keep working and putting

in time during practice then I can achieve great things. I'm kind of the underdog."

Three Bend girls tied for first, vaulting 10-08.

"They vault all year long so they have an advantage but they're very good athletes as well," Downer said. "It makes me want to work harder. If I want to get up top, I have to look like these athletes. I watch them to see what I can work better on, what they're doing right and that I can critique and fix."

Last season's GVC champion, West Salem senior Alyssa Premo, tied for fifth at 9-02.

Downer also ran on McNary's girls 4x100 relay. Seeded ninth, Downer, Kailley Doult and freshmen Ashlin Samples and Leah Doult finished fourth in 51.44 seconds.

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary senior Paige Downer clears 9 feet, 8 inches in the pole vault in the Titan Track Classic at West Salem High School on Friday, April 6. Downer's best vault of the season, 10-foot, lead the GVC as of Wednesday, April 11.

## McNary run-rules South Salem

By **DEREK WILEY**  
*Of the Keizertimes*

On a quote board in McNary's dugout were the words "Make it happen."

Against South Salem, the Lady Celts did just that, scoring seven runs in the first inning and seven more in the second to run-rule the Saxons 14-3 in five innings on Monday, April 9.

McNary's first five hitters reached by single in the bottom of the first.

"That first inning the girls came out on fire," McNary head coach Kevin Wise said. "We just kept finding holes."

Haley Ebner drove in the first run of the game, scoring

Nadia Witt on a line drive single to right field.

"That's something that we want to keep working on," Ebner said of getting off to the fast start. "Obviously, if you score first you control the momentum of the game. We've been talking about it a lot and I'm glad that we lived up to it today."

The Lady Celts had eight hits, all singles, in the bottom of the first, and finished the game with 16 hits.

Emma Kinler had McNary's only center base hit on a double to extra field to score Alexa Cepeda and Ebner to give the Lady Celts a 14-0 lead in the bottom of the second.

"I felt like I wasn't really hitting all that well so I just went up and there and I was like I'm just going to hit it hard, I don't even care where it goes and it happened," Kinler said. "I just really wanted that hit."

Kinler was 2-for-4 at the plate with two runs and three RBIs. Witt was 4-for-4 with a run and RBI.

McNary stole five bases in the game. Kate Ronning swiped two.

"We have a lot more speed than probably what we've had in the past. Not that we haven't had fast girls but now as a whole we're a pretty quick team," Wise said. "We've talked

to the girls a lot about being aggressive and they're stepping up and doing it. It puts a lot of pressure on defenses. I love it. I hope they keep doing it."

South Salem scored all three of its runs in the top of the third, taking advantage of two infield errors.

"We had a little communication problem in the infield, just being young," Wise said.

Faith Danner pitched all five innings for McNary, allowing just two hits.

South Salem played without Maygen McGrath, a senior who has signed with the University of Montana. McGrath sprained her ankle last week.

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary senior Haley Ebner runs to first base after laying down a bunt against South Salem on Monday, April 9.